

WASHINGTON (December 19) - Congressman Spencer Bachus (AL-6) today welcomed the passage of legislation to expedite airport screening for members of the military traveling on official orders.

The House today gave final approval to the Risk-Based Security Screening for Members of the Armed Forces Act (H.R. 1801). The legislation, based on an amendment originally proposed by Bachus in May 2009, directs the Transportation Security Administration to establish an expedited screening process for servicemen and women often forced to rush to make flights for national defense assignments.

With final passage by the House and Senate, the bill now goes to the President for his signature.

Congressman Bachus submitted the following remarks on the bill during earlier House consideration.

“Our men and women in uniform do so much for us. The least we can do for them as they rush through airports loaded down with heavy gear is to establish a faster but fully protective way for them to pass through security. There is no group that deserves this consideration more than the dedicated men and women who serve in the U.S. military. H.R. 1801 is based on an amendment that I drafted in May 2009 to expedite security screening for members of the military traveling on official orders. It directs the Assistant Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security to develop and implement a plan to allow members of our Armed Forces, and their families, expedited but secure screening at airports. The former Adjutant General of the Alabama National Guard, Major General Abner Blalock, stated to me that this courtesy will “make a big difference for our military and our families.” My commendations go to Representative Chip Cravaack for being a champion of this legislation and to this House for this show of concern for our soldiers and their families. It is my hope that this bill will receive overwhelming, if not unanimous support. It is only fitting for the dedicated men and women who protect our freedom.”